

ARLINGTON TREE COMMITTEE

Monthly Meeting ATC, Weds. July 8, 7:30 PM, Selectmen's Hearing Rm, Town Hall

Present: Sally Naish, Eliza Burden (Co-chair), Mary Ellen Aronow (Chair), Susan Stamps (p), Emily Snyder, Mike Rademacher, Rebecca Edmondson. Visitors: Larry Englisher, Eric Ammondson, John Ellis

1. **Approval of Meeting Minutes.** June meeting minutes approved.
2. **DPW Tree Department Update (Mike)**
 - **Tree Warden:** Mike informed the Committee there are 3 candidates being considered, 2 local outside persons and 1 current Town employee. Opening is posted on Town website and MMA site. Eliza noted posting is dated 12/14 and should be updated. *Action: Mike R. will look into the dates.*
 - **Spring Tree Planting:** Mike provided handwritten updates to Spring 2015 planting. *Action: John to add updated inventory to Google map.*
 - **Public Tree Removal Issues:** Mike provided information regarding a recent issue with the Town's removal of trees on Crescent Hill Avenue. The Tree Warden deemed two trees appropriate for removal. During the removal of the 1st tree, neighbors caused the work to stop. The 2nd tree has not been removed. Mike met with concerned residents and has subsequently been plagued by extensive emails with incorrect information. Mike requested ATC members refer inquiries to his office regarding future tree removal. *Action: ATC suggested information regarding MA statutes for public tree removal be added to ATC website. Mike to provide statute wording.*
3. **Watering.** John Ellis provided 250 printed weatherproof informational tags to be installed on the watering bags of newly planted town trees. John demonstrated his Town tree map. For the purpose of assigning the task of installing these notices, he divided the town into 7 zones. *Action: ATC members were assigned a zone to tag newly planted trees and update their condition on the map. This is to be completed within 30 days time.*
4. **Protection of Trees During Development on Private Property.** Susan Stamps and Mary Ellen reported on their meeting with the Town Manager and Town Counsel. The meeting went well and both were generally supportive. Doug Heim (Town Counsel) might be willing to draft proposed Bylaw amendment. The ATC prefers the name "Tree Preservation Bylaw". *Action: This subcommittee will meet to be prepared for an August meeting.*
5. **MacEhearn Subcommittee Report.** Liz, John, Eliza, and Mike met to develop ideas for these funds. The suggested outcome is to hire an outside source to develop a tree inventory. Davey Tree was proposed as a possible vendor. Mike discussed threshold amounts for state procurement requirements. *Action: The subcommittee will follow up with Davey Tree to review previous tree inventories they have prepared.*

6. **Pilot Tree Inventory.** Liz, Emily and Eliza met with Adam and are working on a pilot tree inventory. *Action: the subcommittee will meet again and review issues with this project.*
7. **Arlington's Big Trees / Heritage Trees (Becky/Liz)**
Becky reported 8 email entries have been received. Becky and Liz are doing field research. Becky has been contacted by a local Boy Scout doing a similar project and will determine if there can be a mutual benefit. *Action: Ongoing.*
8. **Publicity/Outreach**
 - **Social Media**
 - **Facebook:** Eliza continues to maintain the ATC Facebook page.
 - **Website:** Becky is maintaining the ATC website.
 - **Advocate article(s) update committee on schedule**
 - August: Watering. Mary Ellen is writing this.
 - September: possible topic could be the Gator Bag tag project.
 - **T-shirts:** Emily will order 12 new T shirts, they should be ready in time for Town Day.
9. **New Members.** Eric Ammondson to be appointed by the BOS on 7/13/15. No other new members at this time.
10. **Town Day Planning.** Eliza has secured the booth. *Action: Mike R will take care of payment for the booth*
11. **New Business.**
 - Mass Ave Project.** There was discussion about the planting list for the East Arlington Mass. Ave. project and whether the Tree Committee would want to review the selections. Apparently, former Tree Committee member Clarissa Rowe is involved. *Action: Susan Stamps will confirm with Clarissa Rowe that she is overseeing the tree selections for this project.*
 - Winter Moths.** Becky reported that the state has agreed to release predator moths in Menotomy Rocks Park in the spring.

Next meeting: August 12 meeting may be cancelled depending on vacation schedules, TBD. The next scheduled meeting is September 9th at 7:30 pm, Selectmen's Hearing Room ATH